

## **Resolution 1134**

**STATE OF WASHINGTON**

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**BOARD OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**RESOLUTION NO. 1134**

A **RESOLUTION** establishing the Sustainable Forest Management Harvest level for the planning decade for State Trust Lands in Western Washington, and establishing policies, procedures and tasks consistent therewith. The planning decade is fiscal year 2005 through fiscal year 2014.

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF NATURAL RESOURCES,  
STATE OF WASHINGTON, THAT:**

**SECTION 1.** RCW 79.10.320 directs the Department of Natural Resources to apply “sustained yield” management to state owned forest lands under its jurisdiction. The law requires the Department to periodically adjust acreages designated for inclusion in the sustained yield management program, and calculate a sustainable harvest level. The “sustainable harvest level” means the volume of timber to be scheduled for sale from state-owned lands during a planning decade. This is part of the Department’s strategic plan for sustainable forest management. RCW 79.10.310 provides for sustainable harvesting on a continuing basis without major prolonged curtailment or cessation of harvest, as required by state law.

**SECTION 2.** RCW 43.30.215 authorizes the Board to establish policies concerning the management of forest lands within the Department’s jurisdiction. The Board has adopted a number of forest land policies and compiled them in a document entitled the “Forest Resource Plan”. In addition, the Department has adopted procedures and tasks to implement the Board’s policies and manage the forest land.

**SECTION 3.** In 2000, the Board and the Department began the process of re-examining the Western Washington sustainable harvest level and associated policies, procedures and tasks. In beginning this process, the Board set overall goals to provide for sustainable stewardship of state forest lands, revenue for schools and other beneficiaries, healthy forest ecosystems and productivity, and benefits for all the people of Washington. From 2000 to the present, the Board and the Department have reviewed enormous amounts of data and information pertaining to the environmental, societal, and economic implications of various harvest levels and amendments to Forest Resource Plan policies and procedures. The sources of information included:

- An Environmental Impact Statement,
- Extensive public input,
- DNR staff analyses and computer simulations,
- Expert opinions from the Sustainable Forestry Technical Committee, and
- Independent review by the members of the Board of Natural Resources.

**SECTION 4.** The Department issued a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) in November 2003. The DEIS identified six alternatives without identifying a preferred alternative. Scoping comments, multiple public meetings, extensive written comments on the DEIS, direct public comments to the Board of Natural Resources, special Board Sustainable Forestry Workshops, comments from the Sustainable Forestry Technical Committee, outputs from the *Options* policy simulation model, and the DEIS itself, all have provided important information that led to the development of a preferred alternative. At its March 2004 meeting, the Board adopted Resolution 1110, which provided direction to the Department on how to develop and implement the Preferred Alternative. The Preferred Alternative was analyzed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), issued July 30, 2004. The Board reviewed the FEIS. At the August and September 2004 Board meetings, the Board conducted further discussions regarding the sustainable harvest level, and the associated policies, procedures and tasks.

**SECTION 5.** The Board and the Department have carefully and fully considered the economic effects on trust assets of the various proposed sustainable harvest levels and

associated policies, procedures and tasks. The Board and the Department have also carefully considered the Environmental Impact Statement and the social effects associated with their decisions. Accordingly, the Board and the Department find as follows:

A. The environmental impacts that may result from the implementation of the chosen policies, procedures and tasks, and of harvesting at a mean annual level of 597 million board feet per year over the planning decade are within the range of impacts evaluated in the FEIS.

B. The choices in the FEIS's Preferred Alternative provide for a stable and sustainable flow of revenue for each trust, while allowing sufficient annual and inter-decadal variation to capitalize on market trends and available timber inventory. This enables the Department and the Board to focus more on optimizing the value of future timber sales, in addition to providing a predictable flow of timber volume.

C. In selecting the Preferred Alternative, the Board and the Department considered how their choices affect the trust asset base and trust asset production both from a short-term and a long-term perspective. The Preferred Alternative's suite of choices reflects an appropriate balance between the interests of the current beneficiaries and the interests of future beneficiaries.

D. In adopting the sustainable harvest level, the Board and the Department will use innovative silvicultural practices (referred to as "biodiversity pathways") to address forest health concerns by creating more structurally diverse forests, with a priority for habitat, across the landscape as appropriate, while simultaneously increasing the production of trust revenue. Use of these silvicultural practices will also help meet the habitat goals of the Department's federally approved Habitat Conservation Plan more quickly and thus increase management flexibility over the long term, to the benefit of the trusts.

E. Adoption of the policies, procedures and tasks embodied in the Preferred Alternative, and the adoption of a mean annual sustainable harvest level of 597 million board feet per year, enables a net economic benefit to each of the trusts, while providing an appropriate level of income stability over time.

## SECTION 6.

A. The Board hereby adopts the Western Washington sustainable harvest level of 597 million board feet per year for the planning decade of fiscal year 2005 through fiscal year 2014. The Department is directed to implement this resolution by preparing sales that are consistent with this sustainable harvest level and all policies adopted by the Board. The Department shall employ a structured monitoring and reporting program. The Department shall present an annual sales plan to the Board on or about April of each year.

B. The Department shall annually report to the Board of Natural Resources its assessment of the economic, ecological, and social results of implementing the Board's adopted sustainable harvest level. The Department shall provide a report on its efforts to implement "biological pathways" and other innovative silvicultural practices in connection with implementing the sustainable harvest level. Consistent with Policy A in Attachment One of this resolution, the Department shall report to the Board any significant new information or changing circumstances bearing substantially on its achievement of the sustainable harvest level.

**SECTION 7.** The Board hereby adopts the policies identified in Attachment One to this Resolution (*Sustainable Forestry Policy Changes*). The Department hereby adopts the procedures and tasks identified in Appendix F.4 of the FEIS. Attachment One and the procedures and tasks in Appendix F.4 are incorporated herein by reference.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Natural Resources, Department of Natural Resources, State of Washington, this seventh day of September, 2004.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the Commissioner of Public Lands.

---

DOUG SUTHERLAND  
Commissioner of Public Lands

---

BOB NICHOLS  
Governor's Office

\_\_\_\_\_  
TERRY BERGESON  
Superintendent of Public Instruction

\_\_\_\_\_  
DR. R. JAMES COOK  
Dean, College of Agriculture and  
Home Economics

\_\_\_\_\_  
DR. BRUCE BARE  
Dean, College of Forest Resources

\_\_\_\_\_  
GLEN HUNTINGFORD  
Jefferson County Commissioner

Approved as to form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant Attorney General

Date: \_\_\_\_\_